

REMARKS

In this paper, claim 12 is currently amended, and claim 22 has been canceled. After entry of the above amendment, claims 1-5 and 7-21 are pending, and claims 6 and 22 have been canceled.

Claims 1-15 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Otomo (JP 2,679,162) in view of Shima, et al (JP 56-134,089). This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed.

Otomo discloses a first rotor member (1) sandwiched between a pair of second rotor members (2). As for claim 1, based on Shima, et al, the office action states that it would be obvious to pressure weld the components together in order to prevent failure of brake disks comprised of dissimilar metals. However, Shima, et al do not say that pressure welding prevents failure of brake disks comprised of dissimilar metals. Shima, et al discloses laminating a tougher metal layer (2) to a gray cast iron layer (4) in order to provide reinforcement of the gray metal layer (4) and to provide a barrier to cracks forming in the gray metal layer (4). The layers may be bonded using any number of techniques, such as casting or pressure welding. It is not the bonding method that prevents failure of the brake disk, but the reinforcement provided by the tougher layer (2). Thus, Shima, et al do not suggest that pressure welding would add any benefit to the Otomo rotor, especially since there is no evidence of failure risks of the Otomo rotor.

Claim 12 has been amended to clarify that an innermost peripheral surface of the apparatus undulates. This feature helps to reduce weight while maintaining circumferential rigidity, and it is neither disclosed nor suggested by the prior art.

Claims 16-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Otomo in view of Shima, et al and Seymour (US 6,343,675). This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed for the reasons noted above. Also, Seymour's structure actually would multiply the effort needed to attach the rotor to the hub because of the plurality of arms.

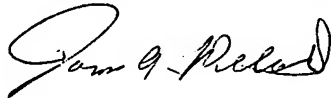
Accordingly, it is believed that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103 have been overcome by the foregoing amendment and remarks, and it is submitted that the claims are in condition for

TORU IWAI, et al  
Application No.: 10/710,355  
Page 8

PATENT

allowance. Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested. Allowance of all claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "James A. Deland".

James A. Deland  
Reg. No. 31,242

DELAND LAW OFFICE  
P.O. Box 69  
Klamath River, California 96050  
(530) 465-2430